


Keswick  
Urban Sanitary District.

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1921.

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN—

In presenting my report for the year 1921, it is necessary to explain that in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health, these reports will in future fall under one of two headings—(1)—“SURVEY REPORTS,” which will be issued at periods of not less than five years, comprising full details concerning conditions which do not vary from year to year, together with those of annual interest and importance of a varying character. And (2)—Reports of a more simple nature to be issued annually, and dealing mainly with the Sanitary History of the year to which they apply.

The Reports for 1919 and 1920 will constitute the first of the series of Survey Reports, while the present will be regarded as an Ordinary Report. By these means it is anticipated that much unnecessary repetition, and consequent cost of printing will be avoided.

### General Statistics.

The Area of the District is	1165·981 Acres
The population, based on 1921 census is	4,283
as compared with 4,403 in 1911—a decrease of 120	
The number of inhabited houses	1,140
The Gross Rateable Value	£30,411 13s. 0d.
The Value on which the rate is based	£22,993 10s. 6d.
The sum represented by a penny rate	£95 16s. 0d.

### Vital Statistics.

#### BIRTHS.

	MALE	FEMALE
Legitimate—65	37	28
Illegitimate—4	1	3
—	—	—
TOTAL 69	38	31
Birth Rate	16 11.	

As compared with the County of Cumberland 24·5.

England and Wales 22·4.

#### DEATHS.

	MALE	FEMALE
TOTAL—59	30	29
Death Rate	13·77.	

As compared with the County of Cumberland 12·4.

England and Wales 12·1.

Number of women dying in consequence of child-birth 0

The deaths in infants under 1 year of age (none of which were illegitimate), numbered 8 (5 males, 3 females), giving a rate per 1,000 births of 115·8, as compared with 47 for 1920; 82 for the County of Cumberland, 83 for England and Wales.

It will be seen from these figures that the total number of deaths is greater by 1 than in the previous year, and that the number in infants has risen from 4 to 8. The ages at death were as follows:—under 1 year, 8; between 1 and 5, 2; between 5 and 15, 2; between 15 and 25, 3; between 25 and 45, 7; between 45 and 65, 15; and over 65, 22.

The causes were in infants:—Enteritis, 1; Bronchitis, 1; Broncho pneumonia, 2; and others, 4.

While taken as a whole they included:—Heart Diseases, 7; Pneumonia, 6; Broncho-pneumonia, 3; Bronchitis, 2; Apoplexy, 4; Bright's Disease, 3; Cancer, 6; Erysipelas, 1; Tubercular Meningitis, 1; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 3 (all in persons normally belonging to this district, but resident elsewhere); Accident and Suicide, 2; Other Causes, 20.

It is to be noted that the Cancer death rate has again risen and stands at 1.4, while that of Tuberculosis is .93.

### Notifiable Diseases.

The notifications received from Medical Practitioners were as follows:—Erysipelas, 10; Chicken Pox, 1; Pneumonia, 15; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 3 (2 males and 1 female); Malaria, 1; Encephalitis Lethargica, 1. And the deaths resulting from such infectious diseases were:—

Erysipelas, occurring in the age period	45 to 65—1
Pneumonia, 6	20 „ 25—1
„ „ „ „	45 „ 65—3
„ „ „ „	over 65—2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 3	at 20—1
„ „ „ „	at 43—1
„ „ „ „	at 59—1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1

The outbreaks of Erysipelas and Pneumonia were of exceptional severity and occurred during the first quarter of the year. In the matter of Tuberculosis, it is possible that the number of notification does not represent the prevalence of the disease. The one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was treated at home, no impairment of vision resulting. Chicken Pox, though not ordinarily notifiable, was made so on account of its resemblance to Small Pox, which has been prevalent in various parts of the country throughout the year, and might at any time be introduced into this district. And considering that more than half the children whose births are registered escape vaccination, the risk of a serious epidemic, with appallingly fatal results, cannot be denied.

### **Nursing Arrangements and Hospitals available for the District.**

Professional Nursing in the home is provided in general by two district nurses under the auspices of the Cumberland Nursing Association, who, while qualified mid-wives, do not as a rule act as such, except in conjunction with Medical Practitioners. As regards Infectious Diseases (Measles, Influenza, etc.,) special nurses have in the past been provided by the Council in times of epidemics, and no doubt this practice will be repeated as necessity may arise.

School and Tuberculosis Clinics are established under the Cumberland County Council.

*Hospitals.*—A well equipped Cottage Hospital is available for Medical and Surgical cases, and the Council's Infectious Diseases Hospital, situated on Whinlatter Pass in the Cockermouth Rural District, affords accommodation for ten cases, being so arranged as to make it possible to treat



two diseases (usually Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria), concurrently. The Staff consists of caretaker and his wife permanently, with, in addition, trained nurses and extra domestic help as occasion may demand.

No cases have been admitted during the past year, but the following record of the last ten years working are of interest :—

**Return re Patients Treated at Whinlatter Hospital.**

YEAR.	PATIENTS TREATED	PATIENTS × DAYS.	EXPEN- DITURE £	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5
1911-12	5	182	172	NOTE — Patients whose stay extended over portions of two financial years are only shewn once in Column 2.
1912-13	29	1231	291	
1913-14	13	558	402	
1914-15	3	90	114	
1915-16	23	718	274	
1916-17	45	2290	694	
1917-18	12	440	247	
1918-19	5	103	172	
1919-20	12	462	517	
1920-21	1	60	208	
1921-22	Nil.	Nil.	161 10 261 18	ordinary maintenance. Building work and fixing Steam Disinfector.

A new and detached building has been erected in order to house the Steam Disinfector, and it is anticipated that this apparatus will very shortly be in working order, and prove a great boon to the whole district, as well as to the hospital itself, as a reliable disinfecting agent. Improved artificial lighting and telephone service are wants which still remain unsatisfied.

As it is impossible to make provision for Small-pox cases at Whinlatter, an arrangement exists for their reception into the Hospital of the Joint Hospitals Board at Broughton.

The following Ambulance facilities are available :—

- (1) For General Infection Diseases : A well fitted horse Ambulance, belonging to the K.U.D.C.
- (2) For Small-pox: Motor Ambulance or trailer, provided by the Cumberland County Council.
- (3) For Non-infectious cases : (a) A Hand Litter ;  
(b) A Motor Ambulance ; both owned and worked voluntarily by the Keswick Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

### Laboratory Work.

This is efficiently carried out by the Lister Institute, yet with the one disadvantage—that of unavoidable delay in receiving reports. The work done has been as follows :—

	Number of Analyses	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Blood Examination for Typhoid ...	1	0	1
Sputum for Tubercle ... ..	10		10
Swabs for Diptheria ... .. (from 8 cases).	10		10



Antitoxin is issued gratuitously to Medical Practitioners for use in the District.

In addition, eight samples of milk have been taken and examined for Tubercle by the Ziehl-Neelson method. Of these, 6 proved negative, 1 doubtful and 1 positive. In the doubtful case, a further sample was taken and submitted to the inoculation test, with negative result, while as the result of the positive analyses, on the advice of our Veterinary Inspector, and with the concurrence of the owner, two cows were eliminated from his byre.

The Local Adoptive Acts in force in the district, are—

1. The Keswick Gas Act, adopted 1868.
2. The Keswick Urban District (Water) Act, 1907.
3. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890  
Parts I., III., and V., adopted, 1897.
4. The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.
5. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907,  
except Parts VII., VIII. and IX.

Bye-laws exist for regulating—

New Streets and Buildings  
Dairies and Cowsheds.  
Prevention of Nuisances.  
Offensive Trades.  
Common Lodging Houses.  
Slaughter Houses.  
Bake Houses.  
Hackney Carriages.  
Pleasure Boats and Vessels.

### Sanitary Administration Generally.

*Public Lavatories.*—Plans have been prepared and approved for the erection of Underground Lavatories in the lower Market Square, and it is anticipated that either this or some satisfactory alternative scheme will be proceeded with at as early a date as possible.

*Common Lodging House.*—The scheme for the erection and maintenance of a Common Lodging House by the Urban District Council has been abandoned. Existing accommodation of this class include :—a Common Lodging House which is unregistered, and the Vagrant Wards, recently re-opened

*Water Supply.*—In spite of the drought experienced in June, the supply has been constant and plentiful throughout the year, while by a re-arrangement of mains, the districts of Briery and Chestnut Hill have been much better served.

We are indebted to Mr. Swinburn of High Hill, for the following statement of Observations taken at the District Meteorological Station :—

	RAINFALL.			GREATEST RAINFALL.		
Jan.	9'36	inches upon	29 days	1'03	inches on	9th
Feb.	'27	"	8 "	.16	"	24th
Mar.	10'99	"	29 "	2'26	"	15th
April	1'35	"	11 "	'56	"	13th
May	3'34	"	21 "	'68	"	30th
June	'36	"	8 "	'11	"	8th
July	3'81	"	16 "	'68	"	25th
Aug.	6'64	"	23 "	1'02	"	1st
Sept.	2'41	"	8 "	1'31	"	13th
Oct.	3'86	"	17 "	'95	"	22nd
Nov.	2'96	"	14 "	1'49	"	5th
Dec.	8'31	"	27 "	2'63	"	26th
	53'66	"	211 "			

Average Rainfall for 19 years (1903—1921) 55'56 inches upon 215 days.

		TEMPERATURE IN SHADE.	
SUNSHINE.		Highest.	Lowest.
Jan.	18.1 hrs. on 10 days	54.5 on 9th and 28th	25.5 on 14th
Feb.	84.6    „    20    „	55.0 on 21st	22.5 „ 10th
Mar.	70.5    „    20    „	54.0 „ 21st	23.0 „ 7th
April	201.9    „    30    „	69.5 „ 30th	25.5 „ 16th
May	208.0    „    28    „	71.5 „ 25th	27.5 „ 5th
June	227.4    „    27    „	80.5 „ 25th	36.0 „ 2nd
July	178.8    „    28    „	83.0 „ 18th	41.0 „ 4th
Aug.	127.2    „    29    „	78.5 „ 20th	39.0 „ 30th
Sept.	150.1    „    26    „	75.0 „ 7th	37.0 „ 25th
Oct.	69.9    „    21    „	78.5 „ 9th	25.0 „ 24th
Nov.	65.0    „    20    „	58.0 „ 23rd	22.5 „ 7th
Dec.	20.4    „    12    „	60.5 „ 30th	29.0 „ 5th
<hr/>		<hr/>	
1421.9		271	

Average number of hours of Sunshine for 19 years,  
1326.4 hours upon 261 days.

The Public Health Staff consist of Medical Officer of Health ; Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (one official) ; Trained Nurses as required.

*Housing.*—Under the Housing Scheme, four Workmen's Dwellings have been completed, and twenty-two others are in course of erection.

The rents proposed are :—

For non-parlour and 2 bedroom houses, 7/6.

„        „        „    3        „        „        9/-.

„        parlour    „    3        „        „        11/-.

There is no lack of applicants as tenants, and as the scheme develops, it is anticipated that the housing difficulty will be so far relieved as to allow of closure or such improvement in the condition of much of the existing property, as to make the cottages decently habitable.

Even now, much might be done to render many dwellings more sanitary, by such minor alterations and improvements as would not entail the eviction of present occupiers, and it is on this branch of the housing question that in my opinion our immediate efforts should be specially concentrated.

Your obedient servant,

J. R. BURNETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

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